



Preface

IWACOIN '99—the *International Workshop on Algorithms, Combinatorics, and Optimization in Interconnection Networks*, was held in Schwerin, Germany in August, 1999. The workshop was loosely structured to allow a significant amount of time for interaction among the participants. One of the results was that a few research collaborations were begun or continued during the workshop.

Just prior to the workshop, Peter Hammer suggested the possibility of a special issue that could include papers related to the workshop—in some cases, even written during the workshop. We issued a call for papers and were rewarded with numerous submissions from workshop participants as well as from others working in the same general area.

It is worth noting that this workshop was one in a series of bi-annual workshops held in odd numbered years, the IWIN (*International Workshop on Interconnection Networks*) series, dating back to 1990. These workshops alternated with workshops in North America which were held in even numbered years beginning in 1990. As the German contribution to this series, IWACOIN '99 was organized by Roger Labahn from the University of Rostock. Previous workshops in this series also resulted in special issues of Discrete Applied Mathematics, notably Vols. 37, 38, 53, and 83.

We wish to thank the authors of the submissions (including those accepted and those which do not appear here) for their time and effort. We especially wish to acknowledge the excellent work of many referees who read various drafts of the manuscripts. Unfortunately, due to several unexpected delays, this special issue took much longer to come to fruition than the guest editors anticipated. We are particularly happy to have completed the task and beg the forgiveness of the authors for the delays in the publication of their papers.

We are grateful to Peter Hammer for entrusting the job to us and offering us advice when we needed it. We would also like to acknowledge the very special help of Peter's exceptional assistant Nelly Segal who was a close and very reliable contact providing fast answers and solutions to our problems.

Roger Labahn
Universität Rostock, Fachbereich Mathematik,
D-18051 Rostock, Germany
E-mail address: roger.labahn@mathematik.uni-rostock.de

Arthur L. Liestman
School of Computing Science, Simon Fraser University

Burnaby, Canada BC V5A 1S6
E-mail address: art@sfu.ca

Erich Prisner
Franklin College, Via Ponte Tresa 29,
6294 Sorengo-Lugano, Switzerland
E-mail address: eprisner@fc.edu